did not have to explain that we intended to invade the Municipal Building by force.

The day was set for June 20. But when the seventy delegates—half of our Council—assembled in the hall of the Union of Engineers, little of the enthusiasm with which they had voted for the plan was left. Most of the delegates were skeptical, some were cynical. Malyshev and the vice-chairman of the Council, Zagoraev, defended the plan. Half a dozen of the delegates from the employed workers wanted to call off the whole affair. I offered to open an emergency session of the Council to reconsider the whole question.

"The decision must be unanimous. Either we all agree to go or we do not go at all."

There were neither chairs nor benches in the room. The furniture consisted of a large unpainted table used for sorting and packing the mail. I conducted the meeting standing on the table. Zagoraev opened the discussion by describing, step by step, how the delegation would proceed, his confidence impressed the delegates, and unanimity was restored. It was decided that Malyshev and I would lead the party that would enter the session room through the rear door, on the side of the offices, while Zagoraev, a six-foot-six giant and excellent speaker, would head the group making its way through the entrance hall. In each party, a "commando" of four husky boys would be in front, to deal with the guards should they try to stop us. Nobody was to carry any arms.

We proceeded to the Municipal Building in small groups and formed the two assault parties. Police posted at the entrance for office personnel paid no attention to the group led by Malyshev and me, probably taking us for the night shift of a repair or maintenance crew. The corridors were deserted, with only two guards at the door to the session room. We pushed them away and rushed along the aisle between the rostrum and the seats of councilmen.

The chairman jumped from his armchair and shouted, "Who are you, gentlemen?"

The delegation roared, "The un- emp- loyed!"

The councilmen left their seats, shouting and screaming. Some tried to hide under the desks.

Suddenly I noticed that we had failed to synchronize the entries of the two parties. Zagoraev and his men were not there. The councilmen also noticed that the front door of the room was free and hurled themselves toward it. We did not try to stop them, but marched at their heels into the hall. There the arrival of Zagoraev and his group, coming from the main entrance, increased the general confusion.